

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03

SCI-06 INT-08 GSA-02 DRC-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 SP-03

SWF-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02

/186 W

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R 141750Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1297

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: RUBBER: 89TH MEETING INTERNATIONAL RUBBER
STUDY GROUP, JUNE 11-14, 1974

REF: LONDON'S 7123, JUNE 6, 1974

1. SUMMARY: RECOMMENDATIONS OF STEERING COMMITTEE
(REFTEL), ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF
AD HOC (INDUSTRY) ADVISORY PANEL AND RESTRUCTURING OF
IRSG THROUGH AN INTER-SESSIONALLY CONVENED EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE WERE GREETED WITH GENERAL
SATISFACTION BY PARTICIPANTS AT 89TH INTERNATIONAL
RUBBER STUDY GROUP WHICH MET IN LONDON JUNE 11-14,
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1974. STATEMENTS TO PLENARY BY NUMBER DELEGATIONS,

INCLUDING SIGNIFICANTLY

THOSE OF MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA DESCRIBED THESE AS SIGNIFICANT AND FORWARD LOOKING ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THUS US SUPPORT IN RESPECT THESE MEASURES WAS WELL-RECEIVED AND SEEN AS COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POSTURE.

US STRATEGY WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN ABORTING OPEN DEBATE ON THE FAO-SUBMITTED PAPER WHICH ADVOCATED INFORMAL MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS FOR RUBBER. VARIOUS PROPOSALS ADVANCED BY MALAYSIA AND LIBERIA FOR IRSG ATTENTION TO FEASIBILITY BUILDING RESERVE STOCKS AND PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEMES WERE SIDE-TRACKED BY REFERRAL TO NEWLY ESTABLISHED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. END SUMMARY

2. IN ACCORD WITH ESTABLISHED PRACTICE STATISTICAL COMMITTEE MET PRIOR OPENING IRSG AND DEVOTED ATTENTION PREPARATION ESTIMATES DEMAND AND SUPPLY FOR RUBBER IN 1974. COMMITTEE NOTED SIGNIFICANT GAPS IN INFORMATION ON CONSUMPTION/PRODUCTION IN CERTAIN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES, NOTABLY CHINA, BUT PLACED SUPPLIES FOR 1974 AT 3700 THOUSAND MT NATURAL (INCLUDING 50 THOUSAND MT US STOCKPILE DELIVERIES) AND 7350 THOUSAND MT SYNTHETIC. DEMAND IS ESTIMATED TO CLOSELY APPROXIMATE SUPPLY AT 3550 THOUSAND MT NATURAL (INCLUDING 75 THOUSAND MT REPRESENTING NORMAL 4 MONTHS COVER SUPPLY) AND 7225 THOUSAND MT FOR SYNTHETIC (INCLUDING 30 THOUSAND MT REPRESENTING 2-1/2 MONTHS STOCKS COVER TO MEET HIGHER SYNTHETIC RUBBER CONSUMPTION).

MR. W.G.G. KELLETT (UK), HIGHLY REGARDED CHAIRMAN OF STATISTICAL COMMITTEE, WAS AGAIN SELECTED TO SERVE FOR YEAR 1974/75 DESPITE UNEXPECTED DISCUSSION AROUND ISSUE OF WHETHER HE, AS RETIREE AND NEWLY APPOINTED SALARIED CONSULTANT OF SECRETARIAT, COULD SERVE AS A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. BEHIND SCENES LOBBYING US/UK DELEGATIONS INDUCED MALAYSIA TO NOMINATE KELLETT WHO SUBSEQUENTLY UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN. (KELLETT WILL BE VALUABLE ADDITION PERMANENT SECRETARIAT STAFF AND WILL UNDERTAKE IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY PREPARATION RUBBER DEMAND/SUPPLY FORECASTS WITH CONTINUING ASSISTANCE NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE OF EXPERT RUBBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATISTICIANS.)

3. ACTION ON AGENDA ITEMS:

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 L-03

INT-08 SCI-06 GSA-02 DRC-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 SP-03

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R 141750Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1298

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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A. MARITIME TRANSPORTATION. AS USUAL SINGAPORE SUPPORTED BY MALAYSIA CALLED ATTENTION NEED IRSG ACTION ENCOURAGE LOWER FREIGHT RATES AND IMPROVE SHIPPING FACILITIES. SINGAPORE EXCORIATED RECENT "OPEN-RATE" AGREEMENT BETWEEN HONGKONG AND JAPAN, CALLED ATTENTION TO TREND TOWARD HIGHER SHIPPING CHARGES AND CALLED FOR CONCRETE MEASURE TO CORRECT SITUATION. ENSUING DISCUSSION LED AGREEMENT CALL ON ECAFE TO MAKE AVAILABLE RESULTS OF ITS STUDIES IN THIS FIELD AND ON UNCTAD TO STUDY "ALTERNATE MODES OF TRANSPORT AND TO EXAMINE PRESENT CONFERENCE SYSTEMS AND EFFECTS ON SHIPPING." SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT BY JAPAN NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT

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COULD NOT BE BOUND BY ANY CONCLUSIONS REACHED BY UNCTAD IN VIEW JAPAN'S POLICY NON-INTERFERENCE SHIPPING INDUSTRY. US DEL TOOK LOW PROFILE THIS SUBJECT BUT TABLED PAPER ON WORK OF NATURAL RUBBER SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION (NRSA) WHICH WAS WELL-RECEIVED AND ESPECIALLY NOTED BY SINGAPORE DELEGATION.

B. FAO PAPER ON INFORMAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS. MALAYSIA SUPPORTED BY LIBERIA USED OCCASION TO INTRODUCE SUGGESTION IRSG (1) SHOULD NOW STUDY MATTER ESTABLISHING RESERVE STOCK SCHEME TO MEET LONG-TERM SUPPLY IMBALANCE; (2) ASSESS WAYS MAINTAIN REASONABLE PRICE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NR AND SR. THOUGH MARKET PRICE SITUATION NOW GOOD, NEW FACTORS SUCH AS PETRO-CHEMICAL SITUATION WARRANTED ATTENTION LONG-TERM ASPECTS.

US STRATEGY WAS TO DOWN-PLAY DISCUSSION FAO PAPER. UK AND JAPAN JOINED BUT OTHER COUNTRIES RELUCTANT PUBLICLY DISAVOW FAO REPORT. NEVERTHELESS US STRATEGY SUCCESSFUL DIVERTING CONSIDERATION MALAYSIAN PROPOSALS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHERE HOPEFULLY WILL DIE ON VINE.

C. REPORT OF STEERING COMMITTEE SETTING UP AD HOC ADVISORY PANEL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADOPTED ALONG OUTLINES SUMMARIZED REFTEL 7123. GROUP SELECTED FOLLOWING: CHAIRMAN ADVISORY PANEL -- ROWZEE OF CANADA; AND VICE CHAIRMAN LEW SIP HON OF MALAYSIA.

4. OTHER ITEMS. DATE AND VENUE NEXT IRSG MEETING TENTATIVELY SET FOR JUNE 1975 LONDON. HOWEVER, INFORMALLY UNDERSTAND INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA MAY WISH HOST MEETING IN WHICH CASE IT WILL BE TERMED IRSG ASSEMBLY. INDONESIA ELECTED GROUP CHAIRMAN FOR 1974/75 AND JAPAN ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN IN LINE WITH TRADITION OF ROTATING OFFICES BETWEEN PRODUCING AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. BUDGET APPROVED FOR 1974/75 AS IN PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED MINUTES ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL COMPRISE FOLLOWING: UK (CHAIRMAN), MALAYSIA (VICE CHAIRMAN), US, USSR, LIBERIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, FRG AND JAPAN.

5. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING JUNE 13 TO SCHEDULE ITS ACTIVITIES. DECIDED TO MEET IN OCTOBER, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DECEMBER, MARCH AND AGAIN IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO NEXT GROUP MEETING OR ASSEMBLY. OCTOBER AND MARCH MEETINGS WOULD INVOLVE ONLY LONDON REPS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES, BUT DECEMBER MEETING EXPECTED TO BE ATTENDED BY GOVERNMENT

REPS FROM CAPITOLS. OCTOBER MEETING WOULD HEAR STATUS REPORTS ON TASKS ASSIGNED TO SECRETARIAT REGARDING MARITIME TRANSPORTATION, COMPOSITION OF EXPORT RUBBER STATISTICIANS COMMITTEE, STATISTICAL PROCEDURES, CHAIRMAN'S PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF CONSTITUTION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS. DECEMBER MEETING WOULD REVIEW VARIOUS PROPOSALS REGARDING PRICE STABILIZATION, REVISION OF CONSTITUTION, BUDGET AND STAFFING, NEW MEMBERS, PLANS FOR A SYMPOSIUM AT GROUP MEETING AND AN INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT OF THE ROWZEE PANEL. MARCH MEETING WOULD FINALIZE PLANS FOR SYMPOSIUM, CONSIDER DRAFT FY-75 BUDGET AND REVIEW DRAFT AGENDA FOR GROUP MEETING. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT WAS STRONG ADVOCACY BY LIBERIA OF IRSG AS PREDOMINANT ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RUBBER AND UNDISGUISED DISDAIN OF MALAYSIAN-LED ANRPC.

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